

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02041 081748Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05

VOE-00 CA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

INRE-00 /060 W

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O 081645Z MAY 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 213

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2041

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: RETURN OF 64 VIETNAM

REFUGEES ABOARD VESSEL REGENT STATE TO VIETNAM

1. UNHCR DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT KUALA LUMPUR CARPENTER REPORTS

AS FOLLOWS:

A. VESSEL REGENT STATE ARRIVED AT SINGAPORE 6:00 A.M. MAY 4, 1978 WITH 64 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD. THE SHIP IS REGISTERED IN LIBERIA AND OWNED BY A LIBERIAN COMPANY THAT IS PRINCIPALLY OWNED BY A BRITISH SUBJECT AND PARTIALLY OWNED BY A WEST GERMAN CITIZEN.

B. BEFORE REFUGEES ARE ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK AT SINGAPORE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT MUST UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEE THAT THE REFUGEES WILL BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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ARRIVAL AT SINGAPORE.

C. UNHCR HAS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO FIND A GUARANTOR GOVERNMENT FOR THESE 64 REFUGEES.

D. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEES BECAUSE THE VESSEL WAS NOT REGISTERED IN BRITAIN.

E. UNHCR HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO ITS INQUIRY TO THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT GUARANTEEING RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES.

F. ON MAY 8, 1978 THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL, CAPTAIN ISMAEL, REPORTED TO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE OWNER TO RETURN THE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM OR TO WHERE THEY WERE PICKED UP AT.

G. THE BOAT THAT THE REFUGEES WERE RESCUED FROM HAS SUNKEN. THE CAPTAIN OF THE REGENT STATE IS CONSIDERING PURCHASING A BOAT LOCALLY TO PUT THE REFUGEES ON.

H. AT 8:00 P.M. MAY 8, 1978 UNHCR HEADQUARTERS AT GENEVA VERIFIED TO CARPENTER THAT THE OWNERS HAVE THREATENED TO RETURN THE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM.

I. CARPBYWER REPORTS THAT UNHCR PLANS TO ASK THE BRITISH GOCPORGVMREP ORTS THAT THE VESSEL IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SINGAPORE THE MORNING OF MAY 9, 1978.

K. PLEASE ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO INTERVENE IF GUARANTEES ARE NOT FORTHCOMING FROM THE BRITISH OR WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 2761056
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF 64 VIETNAM
TAGS: SREF, SN, VM
To: STATE
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